

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8:30 a.m. Sunday 5 January 2025
Second Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany of the Lord

ENTRANCE

(To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew)

Lighting of candles and prelude

Praise choruses: 2098: "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"
2094: "Carol of the Epiphany"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Listening prayer: 230 (*Verse 4 only*) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

First lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalter: (*Insert: Alternate leader and people*) Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Second lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

Song: 2095 "Star-Child"

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

Joys, concerns, prayers

John Wesley's Covenant Service*:

Collect: **God, you have appointed our Lord Jesus Christ
as Mediator of a new covenant;
give us grace to draw near with fullness of faith
and to join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Covenant:

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection,
has made a new covenant with all who trust in him.**

(2)

On the one side, God promises in this covenant
to bring us new life in Christ.

**On the other side, we are pledged
to live not for ourselves but for God.**

From time to time we renew our covenant with God,
**especially when we reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant
and gather at the Lord's table.**

Today, therefore, we meet, as the generations before us have met,
to renew the covenant that binds us to God.

The invitation: Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.
Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.
**Christ has many services to be done.
Some are more easy and honorable,
others are more difficult and disgraceful.**
Some are suitable to our inclinations and interest,
others are contrary to both.
**In some we may please Christ and please ourselves.
But then there are other works
where we cannot please Christ
except by denying ourselves.**
Be satisfied that Christ shall give you
your place and work.

607 "A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition" (*Unison*)

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 15ff)

All are welcome

SENDING FORTH

Song: 117 "O God, Our Help, in Ages Past"

Closing prayer: 255 "Epiphany"

Postlude and extinguishing of candles/Going forth

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